

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/636,003

Examiner

Quang N. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

LAYMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed on 11/17/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17,19-35,37-47 and 49-79.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 August 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Amendment

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment maybe filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with the Applicant's Representative, Mr. Michael K. Colby (Reg. No. 45,816) on January 23rd, 2006.

3. Please change **Claim 1** to:

A method of formatting a message for exchange between entities on a network, the method comprising:

generating a message envelope;

generating contents of the message envelope, the contents comprising data structures, each data structure identifies which entity is intended to process the data structure when that entity receives the message envelope over the network, wherein at least one of the data structures includes an actor attribute specifying the identity of that entity and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for that entity to perform a task in the data structure must be understood and processed by that entity.

4. Please change **Claim 19** to:

A method of delivering a message over a network, the method comprising:
transmitting a message envelope of a message from an origin entity to a destination entity via one or more intermediate entities on the network;
the message envelope having contents comprising data structures, each data structure identifies which entity is intended to process the data structure when that entity receives the message envelope over the network, wherein at least one of the data structures includes an actor attribute specifying the identity of the destination entity and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for the destination entity to perform a task in the data structure must be understood and processed by the destination entity.

5. Please change **Claim 37** to:

A method of parsing a message received by a receiving entity over a network from a sending entity, the method comprising:
parsing a message envelope;
parsing contents of the message envelope, the contents comprising data structures, each data structure identifies which entity is intended to process the data structure when that entity receives the message envelope over the network, wherein at least one of the data structures includes an actor attribute specifying the identity of the receiving entity and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for the receiving entity to perform a task in the data structure must be understood and processed by the receiving entity.

6. Please change **Claim 49** to:

A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs a method of formatting a message for exchange between entities on a network, the method comprising:

generating a message envelope;

generating contents of the message envelope, the contents comprising data structures, each data structure identifies which entity is intended to process the data structure when that entity receives the message envelope over the network, wherein at least one of the data structures includes an actor attribute specifying the identity of that entity and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for that entity to perform a task in the data structure must be understood and processed by that entity.

7. Please change **Claim 50** to:

A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs a method of delivering a message between entities on a network, the method comprising:

transmitting a message envelope of a message from an origin entity to a destination entity via one or more intermediate entities on the network;

the message envelope having contents comprising data structures, each data structure identifies which entity is intended to process the data structure when that entity receives the message envelope over the network, wherein at least one of the data structures includes an actor attribute specifying the identity of the destination entity and

a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for the destination entity to perform a task in the data structure must be understood and processed by the destination entity.

8. Please change **Claim 51** to:

A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs a method of parsing a message received by a receiving entity over a network from a sending entity, the method comprising:

parsing a message envelope of a message;

parsing contents of the message envelope, the contents comprising data structures, each data structure identifies which entity is intended to process the data structure when that entity receives the message envelope over the network, wherein at least one of the data structures includes an actor attribute specifying the identity of the receiving entity and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for the receiving entity to perform a task in the data structure must be understood and processed by the receiving entity.

9. Please change **Claim 52** to:

A message exchange apparatus comprising:

a processor;

a message formatter executable on the processor to:

generate a message envelope;

generate contents of the message envelope, the contents comprising data structures, each data structure identifies which entity is intended to process the data structure when that entity receives the message envelope over the network, wherein at least one of the data structures includes an actor attribute specifying the identity of that entity and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for that entity to perform a task in the data structure must be understood and processed by that entity.

10. Please change **Claim 53** to:

A message exchange apparatus comprising:

a processor;

a message deliverer executable on the processor to:

transmit a message envelope of a message from an origin entity to a destination entity via one or more intermediate entities on the network;

the message envelope having contents comprising data structures, each data structure identifies which entity is intended to process the data structure when that entity receives the message envelope over the network, wherein at least one of the data structures includes an actor attribute specifying the identity of the destination entity and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for the destination entity to perform a task in the data structure must be understood and processed by the destination entity.

11. Please change **Claim 54** to:

A message exchange apparatus comprising:

a processor;

a message parser executable on the processor to:

parse a message envelope of a message;

parse contents of the message envelope, the contents comprising data structures, each data structure identifies which entity is intended to process the data structure when that entity receives the message envelope over the network, wherein at least one of the data structures includes an actor attribute specifying the identity of that entity and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for that entity to perform a task in the data structure must be understood and processed by that entity.

12. Please change **Claim 55** to:

A message envelope generated in accordance with the following acts:

providing a sending entity in communication with a network of entities;

generating contents of the message envelope of a message, the contents comprising:

a header data structure having an actor attribute specifying the identity of an intermediate entity and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for the intermediate entity to perform a task in the header data structure must be understood and processed by the intermediate entity; and

a body data structure which identifies a destination entity as that which is intended to process the body data structure.

13. Please change **Claim 58** to:

A modulated data signal having computer-executable instructions embodied thereon comprising:

a header data structure having an actor attribute specifying the identity of an intermediate entity, over a network of entities, and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for the intermediate entity to perform a task in the header data structure must be understood and processed by the intermediate entity; and

a body data structure which identifies ~~the~~ a destination entity as that which is intended to process the body data structure.

14. Please change **Claim 61** to:

A computer-readable medium having a data structure embodied thereon comprising:

a header data-structure section having an actor attribute specifying the identity of an intermediate entity, over a network of entities, and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for the intermediate entity to perform a task in the header data-structure section must be understood and processed by the intermediate entity; and

a body data-structure section which identifies ~~the~~ a destination entity as that which is intended to process the body data-structure section.

15. Please change **Claim 64** to:

A method of formatting a message for exchange between entities on a network, the method comprising:

generating a message envelope of a message, the message comprising at least one explicit request by one entity on a network of another entity on the network to perform a task;

generating contents of the message envelope, the contents comprising data structures, each at least one data structure having an actor attribute specifying the identity of that entity indicated in the at least one explicit request and a mandatory attribute indicating that the at least one explicit request for that entity to perform a task in the data structure must be understood and processed by that entity.

16. Pursuant to MPEP 606.01, the title has been changed to read:

-- METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EXCHANGING MESSAGES BETWEEN ENTITIES ON A NETWORK COMPRISING AN ACTOR ATTRIBUTE AND A MANDATORY ATTRIBUTE IN THE HEADER DATA STRUCTURE --

17. Claims 1-17, 19-35, 37-47 and 49-79 are allowed.

18. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification (*page 11, lines 17-22 and page 17, lines 12-24*) and the applicant's amendments filed on 11/17/2005, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

Fuisz (US 6,389,455), teaches a method and apparatus for forwarding emails based on information/data contained in the header of the emails (*i.e., performing a task based on data contained in the message envelope*) (**Fuisz, Abstract**).

Gupta et al. (US 6,567,857), teaches a method and system for modifying a message by inserting one or more "thru-proxy" tags into a header or data portion of the message to identify another possible destination or node (*e.g., to identify an intermediate or ultimate destination*) such that the message is sent to the destination specified in the proxy tag for performing a specific task to the message such as to identify a reliable, assured server-side proxy for content rewriting, including composing from multiple pages and per-user group customization; to identify a secure proxy for decrypting the message before it is forwarded onto the next location; or to identify a distill proxy for transforming an image's resolution to accommodate handheld devices with limited video capability (**Gupta, C8:L64 – C9:L10, and C12:L65 – C13:L8**).

Lefebvre et al. (US 2002/0010665 A1), teaches data structures specifying whether the entity, intended to process the data structure must understand such data structure (*a DTD is used to specify the rules a document must conform to and is used in grammatically analyzing the document, a DTD is not required in all documents*) (**Lefebvre, paragraphs [0116-0121]**).


However, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination that a communication method and system for exchanging messages between entities on a network comprising a header data-structure section **having an actor attribute specifying the identity of an intermediate entity, over a network of entities, and a mandatory attribute indicating that an explicit request for the intermediate entity to perform a task in the header data-structure section must be understood and processed by the intermediate entity** as set forth in independent claims 1, 19, 37, 49-55, 58, 61 and 64. Claims 1-17, 19-35, 37-47 and 49-79 are allowed because of the combination of other limitations and the limitation listed above.

19. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Examiner's Amendment."

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang N. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3886.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's SPE, Rupal Dharia, can be reached at (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER